

PUBLIC BUILDING AT MENOMINEE, MICH.

JANUARY 7, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MILLIKEN, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 252.]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 252) for the erection of a public building at Menominee, Mich., respectfully report as follows:

Menominee, the county seat of Menominee County, is situated on Green Bay at the mouth of the Menominee River, and has a population of 16,000, being the metropolis of what is known as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and ranking twelfth in size among cities of the State. It is a point of great commercial importance, but is noted chiefly for the manufacture and shipment of timber products, in which it stands first in the United States. Three hundred million feet of lumber, besides laths and shingles, are annually manufactured here, and 4,000 men are employed by the sawmills and other factories within the city limits.

The city has the Holly system of water works, an efficient paid fire department, electric lighting throughout the city, 15 miles of electric street railway, and 10 miles of paved streets.

Four railroad lines touch at Menominee, 11 trains arriving and departing daily, and 3 steamboat lines make regular trips to this port during season of navigation.

There are 2 daily and 4 weekly newspapers published in the city, which have a large circulation.

Menominee is a second-class free delivery post-office, employing 6 carriers and 3 clerks. The office now occupies a single storeroom containing about 2,000 square feet, half of which is set apart as a lobby, the balance being used for the entire business of the office, including money-order and registry departments.

By reference to the report of the Auditor for the Post-Office Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895, the following will be observed regarding the business of the Menominee office for that year: Gross receipts, \$14,256.29; salary, \$2,400; clerk hire, \$1,900; rent, light, and fuel, \$608.94; other incidental expenses, \$22.72; free delivery, \$4,919.28; total expenses, \$9,850.94; leaving a net revenue of \$4,405.35. It is believed that a space of about 5,000 square feet, properly arranged with separate compartments for each department of the service, will soon be actually required for carrying on the rapidly increasing business of this office. The rent of the present quarters is \$700 per annum.

Menominee has a customs office, which is in charge of a deputy collector and inspector, and at present has no place of business owned by the Government.

The city is situated on an excellent harbor, is surrounded by a fertile farming country, and is rapidly growing in population and business.

Your committee believe that the efficiency of the public service will be advanced by the passage of the bill, and therefore report same to the House with the recommendation that it pass with the following amendment:

Strike out, beginning in line 11, after the word "dollars," all down to and including the word "appropriated," in line 13.

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